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AN INTERVIEW WITH GEN. CHIANG CHING-KUO

'Communist Grip Is Weakening'

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TAIPEH, Formosa, Dec. 7 — A Nationalist Chinese secret agent who has stayed on the mainland 12 years without detection left Hankow last Nov. 12 and is now in Taipei.

On the basis of his reports and other similar data, Gen. Chiang Ching-Kuo, who has been called the "Allen Dulles of China" and who is the 51-year-old son of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, made these observations to me today:

- The communist regime has never been worse off economically in its dozen years' rule and the plight of the individual Chinese has never been worse in hundreds of years.

- Hatred of communes and Peiping oppression has been built up to the explosion stage in several areas. Leadership need not be from outside but could come from Red cadres themselves, some of whom are turning against Peiping.

- Conditions will further deteriorate if international pressure is applied by the free nations in the form of embargoes on consumer goods for Red China and agreements against trade.

"The time for a crackdown is now," said the heavily-built, graying general who spoke thru an interpreter.

EVIDENCES

Added Chiang, ticking off evidences of a weakening communist grip on the mainland:

"Normally this time of year the Reds hold a big, much-publicized session in Peiping to boast of their achievements on the economic front. They passed up such a meeting this year for obvious reasons.

"Their broadcasts have changed in format. They no longer fill the air with fancy figures and production claims. Instead they had to plug the gaps with more and more Western music.

"Trying still harder to meet public tastes, they have permitted more films from Hong Kong to be shown in Shanghai and Canton. The results have been that they

NOTE: Gen. Chiang Ching-Kuo is considered one of the most knowing and influential political leaders in Formosa today—next to his father, Chiang Kai-shek. His main interests seem to be watching developments in Red China thru his intelligence network on the mainland and looking after China's over-age army veterans on Formosa. On the former subject he spoke out in this rare interview.

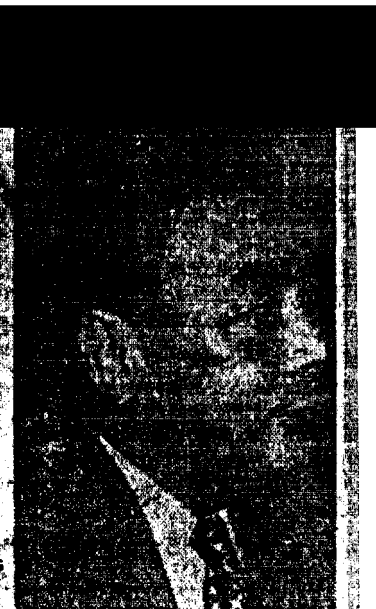
light love dramas, while the Russians and their own propaganda films are virtually boycotted.

"Even our intelligence agents are finding it easier to do their work. Back in 1955, when mainlanders were showing some loyalty or at least interest in Peiping aims, our agents necessarily had to keep under deep cover and many of them never even turned up. Nowadays they've got much more leeway, moving about more freely and so deep has hatred of communism become our men are getting open help in their operations.

"On our psychological war

fare, at first we couldn't get back a single letter as an index of our efforts. This was because the people were afraid and censorship was most strict. Apparently now the censors no longer care because we are getting tremendous response.

"So, say it all adds up to a potential explosion. Our American friends have the impression that our return to the mainland is impossible without full-scale war. This is not true, because the most effective blows can be dealt in a political way right now, especially if free nations coordinate their effort."



GEN. CHIANG

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